(SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) The Government of India is seized of the problem of slums in different States and Cities of the country and is trying to ameliorate this through "National Slum Development Programme" (NSDP), under which funds are released by way of Additional Central Assistance to different States by the Ministry of Finance on the recommendations of the Planning Commission.

While Government have framed and communicated broad guidelines to States, it is important to note that the condition of the slums vary from State to State and even from city to city. The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation is in the process of evolving a Human Settlement Policy which will also encompass a slum policy. This will have wider relevance and be more meaningful as a national policy.

Proposal for development of towns in Bihar

†2541. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to develop some of the towns of Bihar is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the names of the towns and the details of the amount to be allocated for them during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details of other effective steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Under the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme, projects to develop four towns, namely, Madhepura, Raxaul, Araria and Khagaria have been approved and covered under the scheme during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

A sum of Rs. 10 lakhs each has been released in the year

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

1998-99 in respect of Madhepura and Raxaul towns and a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs each has been released during the year 2000-2001 in respect of Araria and Khagaria towns. Thus, the total assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs has been released for these four towns. The State Government has been advised to approach Housing & Urban Development Corporation/Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India/ Industrial Development Bank of India for loan assistance under the Urban and Environmental Infrastructure Facility Project assisted by the Asian Development Bank for an integrated project of water supply, sewerage and solid waste management for Patna, Gaya and Bodhgaya.

Filling up of SC and ST vacancies

2542. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vacancies reserved for SCs and STs in his Ministry and its subordinate offices have been filled as on date;

(b) if so, the details thereof, category-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for filling up of these posts in each office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Generation of employment for educated unemployed urban youth in Manipur

2543. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial allocation made by Government during the last five years for the State of Manipur to generate employment oportunities for the educated unemployed urban youth in the State;